THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of the present incumbents holding the post of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Members are given in the enclosed Statement. *(See* below) The Income-tax Settlement Commission is a permanent Commission charged with the responsibility of Settlement of cases under Chapter XIX-A of the Income-tax act, 1961 and Chapter V-A of Wealth Tax Act, 1957.

(c) The total number of applications filed before the Commission from the date of its inception upto 31.10.1998 is 10,681. The amount collected on admission of applications from financial year 1990-91 to 31.10.1998 is Rs. 212 crores.

(d) 8591 cases have been decided/ settled upto 31.10.1998. In the settled cases an amount of Rs. 217 crores was collected/collectible from financial year 1990-91 to 1996-97.

Statement

	S/Shri	
1.	N.K. Nayak	Chairman
2.	G.S Sindhu	Vice Chairman
3.	S.K. Lal	Vice Chairman
4.	S. Govindarajan	Vice Chairman
5.	B.P. Gupta	Member
6:	A.K. Batabayal	Member
7.	D. Lakshminarayana	Member
8.	N.C. Jain	Member
9.	K.P. Singh	Member
10	Amitava Chatterjee	Member
11	P. Radhakrishnan	Member
12	K. Subtamaniam	Member

Disclosure of the Details of VDIS Declarants

2528. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount declared and tax received under VDIS;

(b) whether Government would disclose the details of individual declarants under VDIS to any other Government Department or any individual; if so, in what circumstances; and

(c) whether Government consider VDIS details to be completely secret?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) The amount of income declared under VDIS is Rs. 33,289.67 crores and the taxes received under VDIS is Rs. 9,745.52 crores.

(b) According to the provisions of Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme, 1997, the particulars contained in any declaration can be disclosed only to any officer employed in the execution of the Income Tax Act or the Wealth-tax Act or to any officer appointed by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India or the Board to audit income-tax receipts or refunds.

(c) Excepting the authorities mentioned in reply to Para (b) of the question, the VDIS details are not to be disclosed to any other authorities.

Uniform Rate of Sales Tax

2529. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce uniform rate of sales tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also proposed to phase out Central Sales tax by the year 2000; and

(d) if so, the reaction of State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Sir, as sales tax is a State subject, it is for the States to take a decision in this regard.

(e) and (d) There is a proposal for reduction in rates of Central Sales Tax in a phased manner. A Committee of six Chief Ministers has been set up to look into the matter and make suitable recommendations.

Rise in the value of Hard Currency

2530. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exporters are discouraged due to rise in the value of hard currency as a result of which the export of the country has declined; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Export performance is influenced by a variety of (actors-domestic as well as external, besides exchange rate movements. Increase in the value of hard currencies vis-a-vis the domestic currency is expected to increase the price competitiveness as well as profitability of domestic exports.

Under the current exchange rate mechanism, the external value of the Indian rupee is market determined. The Reserve Bank of India keeps a close watch on the exchange rate movements in order to ensure orderly conduct in the foreign exchange markets in India.

मुम्बई शेयर बाजार में शेयरों का हेर-फेर

2531. **श्री गुरूदास दासगुप्त**:
श्री जे. चितरंजन:
श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृप करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान हाल ही में मुम्बई शेयर बाजार में शेयरों के हेर-फेर में प्रतिभूति घोटाले के एक प्रमुख दोषी की अंतर्ग्रस्तता के संबंध में भारतीय प्रतिभूति विनिमय बोर्ड द्वारा की गई जांच की ओर दिलाया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री यशवन्त सिन्हा): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) हाल ही में कुछ स्क्रिपों में कीमत संबंधी कथित छल-कपट की जांच-पड़ताल भारतीय प्रतिभूति और विनिमय बोर्ड (सेबी) द्वारा की गई थी। जांच-पड़ताल में प्रथमदृष्टया यह पता चला कि ग्राहकों के एक सामान्य दल, जिसमें मुख्यतः सात कंपनियां शामिल है , की ओर से, उनकी सहमति से कार्य कर रहे ब्रोकरों के एक दल ने बी. एस. ई. और एन. एस. ई., दोनों में इन शेयरों का काफी बड़ा हिसा समेट लिया है तथा प्रतीत होता है कि उन्होंने इन स्क्रिपों की कीमतों में हेर-फेर किया है। जांच-पड़ताल से आगे यह पता चला कि 1992 के प्रतिभूति घोटाले के एक अधिसूचित व्यक्तिम हर्षद मेहता के साथ इन कंपनियों के निकट संबंध थे और वे उसके लिए एक मोर्चे के रूप में कार्य कर रहे थे।

Strike by officials of central excise, customs and income-tax

2532. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of the Central Excise, Customs and Income Tax recently went on strike paralysing the international airports, major and minor ports and cargo complexes;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for resorting to strike by these officials stating the extent of loss suffered by Government as a consequence thereof; and